

Information Item

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

California High School Outreach Program Inventory

The 2001-02 State Budget requested that the California Postsecondary Education Commission hire an external consultant to conduct an inventory of the outreach programs that are both in place at California's public high schools and operated by California post-secondary education institutions. Pursuant to this request, the Commission entered into an agreement with MGT Consultants of America for the required outreach program inventory.

MGT Consultants have now completed its work and the Executive Summary of that report to the Commission is enclosed here. MGT will present its findings from the outreach inventory at the July meeting.

Because this report does not contain recommendations, it will not return to the Commission for future action. However, following the July meeting, the report will be disseminated to numerous interested parties -- including the governor and legislative members -- and it will be available electronically on the Commission's web site.

In addition, the entire database of outreach information collected by MGT Consultants through this effort will also be available and searchable on the Commission's web site.

Responsible Commission Staff: Karl Engelbach.

Presenters: Jannelle Kubinec and Lynn Paquin of MGT Consultants.

25

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**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL
OUTREACH PROGRAM
INVENTORY**

FINAL REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE:

**CALIFORNIA
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
COMMISSION**

SUBMITTED BY:



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JUNE 28, 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The *2001-02 Budget Act* included approximately \$127 million to fund 19 different outreach programs designed to encourage and support high school students to attend college. Since some programs also receive additional funds from federal, private, and local school districts the combined outreach program revenue is even greater. Over the past five years, the number of outreach programs has increased and the state's funding commitment has quadrupled in an attempt to counterbalance the effects of new policies restricting university admission based on race, gender, and ethnicity.

Out of a desire to better understand the programs that comprise California's college outreach efforts, the California Legislature and Governor included funding in the *2001-02 Budget Act* for the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) to contract for an inventory of outreach programs that work directly with California's high schools. The evaluation was originally envisioned as a two-part study, with the first phase providing an inventory of outreach programs and the second phase analyzing the effectiveness of the programs. However, budget constraints have eliminated the likelihood of completing the second part of the evaluation. Consequently, this study was designed to provide policymakers and the community with the following information about state-supported high school outreach programs:

- Services and programs offered.
- Types of students targeted for participation.
- Distribution of programs throughout the state.
- Concentration of programs among high schools.
- Program revenues and expenditures.

SCOPE OF STUDY

This study focuses on those outreach programs that directly support students, provide curriculum assistance to improve schools, and conduct college informational and outreach activities at California's 901 comprehensive public high schools. The study provides detailed information about the programs that are in place at each comprehensive public high school. It does not include information about programs in place at elementary schools, middle schools,

alternative (noncomprehensive), or private high schools. Furthermore, the focus of this study is to produce an inventory or survey of programs. Hence, this study does not assess program effectiveness, impact, or efficiency. Program level financial data is included as part of this study; however, data about individual student service costs was not available.

Surveys were sent to the 19 outreach program administrators requesting fiscal year (FY) 2000-01 information about the types of services provided, the number of students, teachers (if applicable) and schools served, and the selection criteria used. Information regarding outcome evaluation, program budget, and a list of high schools involved in the program was also requested. Although most programs provided information about the types of services offered and selection criteria employed, some could not provide a breakdown of revenues and expenditures for services to students in grades 9-12. Also, most programs could not provide information about the number of students participating in a program at each high school.

Surveys were also sent to every high school and unified school district in California requesting information about outreach programs offered in their schools in FY 2000-01. Similarly, data about services provided, program budget, and the grade and ethnicity of students enrolled were requested. Of the 430 surveys mailed, only 85 school districts responded (approximately 19.8 percent). Most school district administrators said their heavy work load prevented them from responding to the survey. Many also said it was their district policy to decline to respond to surveys not mandated by the state or federal government. Of the returned surveys, the majority did not include enough detailed information to make them valuable to the report. In general, districts only provided the names of outreach programs offered along with the total number of students participating. Hence, this study reports findings based on program administrator data.

In addition, FY 2000-01 demographic data for every comprehensive public high school was included in the study to facilitate comparisons. Most of the data was obtained from the California Department of Education (CDE) and includes enrollment, Academic Performance Index (API) ranking, and socioeconomic information. This information was also critical in building profiles of schools offering various outreach programs.

The 19 outreach programs discussed in this report are presented in one of following three categories:

- Informational Outreach Programs – provide information about college, admission guidelines, financial aid, and appropriate course selection.
- Student Academic Preparation Programs – focus on working with the student directly to improve academic skills.

- School Improvement Programs – provide curriculum support to teachers and other services to improve students’ knowledge, skills and performance schoolwide.

Although some programs have a secondary objective best reflected in another category, they were placed according to the program’s primary mission and footnoted accordingly.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The report includes detailed information about the outreach programs in place at each comprehensive public high school as well as information about each outreach program. Below is a summary of findings reported in the study:

- ***Most comprehensive public high schools had one or more high school outreach program(s).*** Approximately 94.9 percent of comprehensive public high schools offered at least one outreach program. The majority – 56.4 percent – had between one to four outreach programs.
- ***Outreach programs were prevalent throughout the state. More populated regions are more likely to have programs.*** The distribution of outreach programs was consistent with the distribution of high schools throughout the state. However, within more populated regions of the state between 33.7 percent and 44.9 percent of high schools had five or more outreach programs. In contrast, 2.2 percent of the schools in the Foothill/Mountain regions and 22.7 percent of schools in the northern region of the state had this many programs.
- ***Teacher training programs reached more remote schools through regional centers.*** A greater number of rural schools participated in teacher training programs as compared to student-oriented programs due to the nature of the delivery system. Many teacher training programs operate during the summer at regional locations, thus providing greater access to teachers from rural areas.
- ***Most of the outreach programs reported selection criteria focused on low-performing schools and students, college attendance rates, and students who would be the first in their family to attend college.*** By comparing schools with a high prevalence of high school outreach programs to schools with few or no outreach programs the following trends were observed:
 - ***Low API rankings were linked to a larger number of outreach programs.*** Comprehensive public high schools with low API rankings are more likely to have a greater number of outreach programs than high schools with higher rankings. For example, the median API

ranking of schools with no outreach programs was nine — three times higher than the median API ranking of schools with five or more outreach programs.

- ***Socioeconomic measures were also good predictors of a school's likelihood of offering outreach programs.*** Over 47 percent of low-income or socioeconomically disadvantaged schools offered five or more outreach programs, compared to 4.3 percent of high-income, or socioeconomically advantaged schools. Likewise, the majority of comprehensive public high schools where 50 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price meals had five or more outreach programs. By comparison, only 20.8 percent of schools where less than 25 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price meals had five or more outreach programs.
- ***College attendance rates did not appear to influence the number of outreach programs at a given high school.*** The percentage of schools grouped by number of outreach programs did not differ significantly when broken into college attendance rates. For example, of schools with five or more outreach programs, 38.2 percent reported less than one-quarter of students attended college compared to 40.7 percent that reported between 76 and 100 percent of students attended college.
- ***Variety of outreach programs reached almost one-half of all high schools.*** The type of outreach programs offered in comprehensive public high schools was varied, with 45.5 percent of schools reporting at least one program from each category. In addition, 67 percent of schools were served with outreach programs from at least two of the categories.
- ***Limited fiscal data is available.*** The decentralized nature (that is, local college and university campuses provide services, but are supported by a central office) of many of the outreach programs makes it difficult to obtain detailed program financial data. Information was not readily available to program administrators, particularly with regard to the level of expenditures for high school services and the cost per student.
- ***Most schools have multiple programs, but no information was available about how programs are coordinated.*** Data was not available to assess the level of coordination among programs. The lack of standard data collection practices also made it difficult to determine whether a core group of students were enrolled in multiple programs or whether schools with a large number of programs served a greater number of students.